

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 15340 062205Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00  
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01  
AGRE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 /058 W  
----- 018493

P 062117Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9030

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 15340

DEPT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE MEXICAN POPPY ERADICATION  
FALL CAMPAIGN

SUMMARY: WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO ARRIVE AT AN ACCURATE  
ASSESSMENT ON THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FALL POPPY  
ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, EMBASSY NARCOTICS OFFICERS JUDGE  
THAT, BASED ON LIMITED VISUAL RECONNAISSANCE, ONLY FIVE  
PERCENT OF THE CROPS DETECTED STILL REMAIN TO BE SPRAYED  
THROUGHOUT THE THREE CIRICAL ZONES. THIS OBSERVATION DOES  
NOT ENCOMPASS THOSE SURFACE AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN RECENTLY  
REPLANTED OR WHICH ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING REPLANTED.  
END SUMMARY.

1. DURING DEBRIEFING SESSION ON 2 DEC (WHICH MARKED THE  
TERMINATION OF 90-DAY TDY FOR DEA TRIZO PERSONNEL) INVOLVING  
DEA ZONE LIAISON OFFICERS, WASHINGTON GROUP AND EMBASSY  
NARCOTICS OFFICERS, A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON A PRELIMINARY  
ASSESSMENT OF THE MEXICAN POPPY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN FOR  
THE FALL. WHILE DEA TDY PRESENCE IN THE FIELD ENDED DURING  
LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER, MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG)  
PERSONNEL PLAN TO CONTINUE WITH ERADICATION EFFORTS AT A  
REDUCED LEVEL 1 DEC THRU 31 DEC. (CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS  
SCHEDULED BY GOM LAW). THEY PLAN TO MOBILIZE THEIR FORCES  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 15340 062205Z

ANew IN JANUARY TO CONTINUE THEIR PERMANENT ERADICATION

CAMPAIGN.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MOST RECENT VISUAL RECON FLIGHTS IN THE NORTHWESTERN ZONE WERE CONDUCTED ON 1 DEC BY DEA WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS OFFICER. FLIGHT ROUTE, WHICH WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF AG PILOT, CONSISTED ON SURVEYING CONCENTRATIONS OF POPPY AREAS WHICH HAD BEEN SPRAYED OR WERE ABOUT TO BE SPRAYED IN THE DURAZNO AREA, THE SAN JOSE DEL LLANO AREA, AND THE MESA LARGE AREA IN THE VICINITY OF ADVANCE BASE CHOIX. GIVEN THE LIMITED VISUAL RECONNAISSANCE AND THE NARROW BAND COVERED DURING THE FLIGHT TIME, A FAIR ESTIMATE INDICATES THAT OF THE TOTAL POPPY AREAS SURVEYED, APPROXIMATELY FIVE PERCENT STILL ARE AT VARYING STAGES OF GREENERY.

3. THE CONSENSUS OF THE DEA ZONE LIAISON OFFICERS INDICATES THAT THE AG OFFICE HAS MOUNTED AN EFFECTIVE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN THUS FAR BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

(A) CONTINUOUS MONITORING BY AG AND DEA AIRCRAFT JOINTLY CREWED BY MFJP AND DEA OBSERVERS RESULTED IN QUICK RESPONSE BY SPRAY FLEET AGAINST DETECTED POPPY CROPS.

(B) AN APPARENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT BY AG AVIATION AND MAINTENANCE FORCES, SPECIALLY IN THE SPRAY ACTIVITIES. DEA ZONE LIAISON OFFICERS ATTRIBUTE MUCH OF THIS IMPROVEMENT TO CREATION OF SPECIAL GEOGRAPHICAL SECTORS AND SUB-SECTORS WHICH PERMITTED BETTER CONTROL OF BOTH RECONNAISSANCE AND SPRAY OPERATIONS, ELIMINATING MUCH OF THE PREVIOUS CAMPAIGN'S DULICATION.

(C) INCREASING EVIDENCE OF DESPERATION MEASURES BY THE PLANTERS, SUCH AS SCORING IMMATURE POPPY CAPSULES, ATTEMPTS TO RINSE OFF SPRAYED CROPS AND/OR IMMEDIATELY REPLANTING OF DESTROYED CROPS BY BROADCASTING SEED, CLIMATIC CONDITIONS NOTWITHSTANDING.

(D) THE VERY LOW PERCENTAGE OF HEALTHY PLANTS REMAINING IN SPRAYED FIELDS WHICH WERE INSPECTED BY GROUND SURVEYS.

(E) THE LOW PERCENTAGE OF INCISED POPPY CAPSULES FOUND IN CROPS WHICH HAD BEEN SPRAYED AND HAD REACHED VARYING STAGES OF MATURITY.

(F) GENUINE CONCERN AND RESPONSE BY AG SENIOR STAFF ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MEXICO 15340 062205Z

BETTER HERBICIDES AND ADDITIVES TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SPRAYING OPERATIONS.

(G) AG SENIOR STAFF MANAGEMENT DECISION TO TIME THE SPRAYING TO THE STAGE OF GROWTH, CONCENTRATING FIRST ON POPPY CROPS NEARING MATURITY.

4. AS ONE SIGN OF POSITIVE RESULTS, THERE ARE INDICATIONS FROM THE FIELD, WHICH CAN BEST BE LABELED CAUTIOUS

OPTIMISM, THAT THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF OPIUM GUM WITH A  
RESULTING PRICE SPIRAL.

5. COMMENT: AMONG THE MORE INTERSETING COMMENTS OF  
THE THREE DEA LIAISON OFFICERS WAS THEIR UNANIMOUS  
AGREEMENT THAT THEY HAD NO EVIDENCE OR BELIEF THAT  
MEXICAN OFFICIALS HAD ATTEMPTED TO DECEIVE THEM IN  
THE FIELD. THEY ALSO FELT THERE HAD BEEN NO ATTEMPT  
BY MEXICAN OFFICIALS TO PROTECT PARTICULAR CROPS OR  
AREAS FROM DESTRUCTION.

JOVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, CROP DESTRUCTION, HEROIN, REPORTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MEXICO15340  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760450-0966  
**From:** MEXICO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761270/aaaacigg.tel  
**Line Count:** 126  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE MEXICAN POPPY ERADICATION FALL CAMPAIGN SUMMARY: WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO ARRIVE AT AN ACC  
**TAGS:** SNAR, MX  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006